

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON

DEC 4 1953

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Dear Allen:

130481  
In the course of my trip through Europe in September, my attention was drawn to a number of areas in which there appear to be serious weaknesses in the furtherance of our over-all intelligence effort. While I do not have personal knowledge of some of the items which I shall mention, General Erskine, at my request, examined the intelligence picture from the field commanders' point of view and provided me with the benefit of his observations. I realize, of course, that most, if not all these matters are no strangers to you, but perhaps my views will not be as wise as a slightly different slant.

I am fully convinced that the successful prosecution of any military program has its very foundation in the quantity, quality, and proper dissemination of intelligence. I am well aware that deficiencies exist in the Department of Defense intelligence agencies and am taking steps to correct those faults. Correction of the following deficiencies, which lie in the covert field and, therefore, fall within your purview, appears to be of vital importance to the country:

a. Lateral dissemination of information by CIA field agencies to local commanders appears necessary and logical. For example, it seems that USCINCEUR should receive CIA field reports directly and not be required to wait for distribution of screened material from Washington.

b. The penetration of the "iron curtain" by covert means falls far short of our requirements. The military in Germany state that penetration of the Soviet orbit to meridian 50 east should be effected in order to provide information that should be available for proper war planning and the conduct of operations in event of attack. At the present time, reports indicate that we have achieved scattered penetration to a depth of about 150 miles, far short of the requirement.

OSD REVIEW COMPLETED

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SECURITY INFORMATION

SecDef Cont. No. TS-646

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[REDACTED]

No proper training in covert operations has been given the Armed Forces because CIA is charged with the conduct of all such operations. It would appear that a reassessment of Department of Defense training and operations in the covert field should be made, based on the prospective capabilities of CIA resources to satisfy Defense requirements.

There are other points which should be discussed in detail. I'm sure you will agree that improved coordination between our agencies will improve the efficiency of our respective intelligence operations. I therefore suggest that our appropriate staff officers meet as soon as possible to go over these matters of common interest. General Erskine will represent the Department of Defense if you concur.

With best personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

DEPUTY  
ROGER M. KYES

Mr. Allen W. Dulles  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington 25, D.C.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

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1 DD/P - Mr. Wisner	<i>[Signature]</i>	9 Dec 53
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FROM	INITIALS	DATE
1 Exec. Asst. to DCI	JSE/dr	8 Dec 53
2		
3		

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